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MAY 0 3 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of

James J. Shelton

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: DECISION GRANTING PETITION

Application No. 09/996,328

: AND WITHDRAWING THE

Filed: November 28, 2001

: HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

Attorney Docket No. P01252US

This is a decision on the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, filed March 29, 2006.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.181 is **GRANTED**.

The holding of abandonment is **WITHDRAWN**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to timely file a response to the Notice of Allowance mailed September 8, 2005. This Office action set a statutory period for reply of three (3) months for issue fee transmittal. On September 15, 2005, the Office issued a notice entitled "Office Actions and Notice of Allowances Previously Mailed to areas of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi Affected by Hurricane Katrina". The notice stated that the period for reply set in the previous Notice of Allowance was restarted to begin on September 15, 2005. Accordingly, Applicant timely paid the issue fee on December 15, 2005. However, the Office mailed a Notice of Abandonment on March 15, 2006.

It is obvious in view of the above that the Notice of Abandonment was mailed in error.

Accordingly, the holding of abandonment is withdrawn.

Given the basis for granting this petition, no petition fee was required, and none has been charged.

The application is being forwarded to the Office of Patent Publication for processing into a patent.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

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Cliff Congo Petitions Attorney Office of Petitions